

*You may use as much space as you like for your responses, including additional pages. Your responses will be posted on our website, and hard copies will be made available to attendees at our June 25, 2012 candidate forum.*

**Rep. Dan Saddler, House District 12**

**1) Give your opinion on a rotating legislative session to be held in each of the three largest cities in Alaska. What are your ideas for providing Alaska citizens' better access to the legislature?** I applaud Alaskans' desire to be informed observers and participants involved in state government. To improve public access, the state has already made significant investments in the Capitol camera network, online committee and floor session broadcasts and replays, online bill-tracking database and statewide teleconference system, and we should improve and extend them as practical. While a permanent capital move would make more sense in the long run, the high costs of "rotating capitals" probably don't justify the incremental improvement in the level of access already available to residents scattered across our vast state.

**2) What must Alaska do to increase our oil-related revenues?** Alaska is at risk of losing its relative global attractiveness as an oil province. We must modify our oil tax structure to provide incentives to the oil industry to continue the investment needed to extend the life of current oil fields, and to encourage exploration and development of frontier fields in Alaska. I voted for the governor's oil tax reform bills, and hope to support similar legislation again next session.

**3) What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska?** Too many speculative and frivolous lawsuits are filed in state courts and in federal courts covering Alaska, creating unfair delays and obstacles to responsible development and economic activity. I support reforms requiring those who file, and lose, frivolous lawsuits to pay much, more of the cost, including legal fees for unjustly accused prevailing parties.

**4) What is the one most important thing we can do to improve education in Alaska and how will you facilitate that?** We should introduce the benefits of competition to our educational system by enhancing school choice. I carried legislation in the House that also passed the Senate, allowing

home and alternative school students to access public schools for interscholastic competition. I supported school choice legislation, and hope to get the chance to support it again next session.

**5) Give examples of capital budget projects you favor spending state monies on.** I support capital spending to repair deteriorating roads, bridges, ports and airports; to build energy infrastructure such as improved electrical interties and gas pipelines; and to build power generating facilities like the Watana hydroelectric dam and smaller local woody biomass generation systems. I also support spending capital funds to reduce future operating expenses, such as by building roads between isolated communities served by ferry terminals or airports, so such facilities can be shared and the per-user costs lowered reduced.

**6) Do you believe this year's state operating budget is too high, just right, or too low? If too high, name three programs in which you would make cuts. If too low, list the areas which need more spending.** Current high oil prices and Alaska's high oil taxes have enabled record operating budgets, plus significant deposits into state savings accounts, while avoiding the need for state sales or income taxes. This is precarious, however, as the budget is predicated on \$100-plus/barrel oil; a slight price decline quickly puts into deficit spending. As the largest operating budget expenses are for formula programs like Medicare, state education funding and pensions, these are the obvious targets for reductions, whether through actual cuts in nominal dollars, or by holding budgets steady and letting inflation erode the costs. Reductions can certainly be made immediately in such misguided programs as the state subsidy for fans to travel to sports tournaments.

**7) What is your interpretation of the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and how it relates to states' rights? Give specific examples relating to Alaska.** The clear language of the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment makes it plain that powers not constitutionally granted to the federal government remain vested in the states and the people - this requires little interpretation from me, only common-sense interpretation from the U.S. Supreme Court. I trust the state will challenge, and the Supreme Court will draw on the Tenth Amendment to resist, such federal overreach as the exertion of U.S. Park Service police control over non-navigable waterways, using the Clean Water Act to let the EPA

preemptively kill development prospects like the proposed Pebble Mine, and blocking Arctic oil development by defining CO2 as a pollutant that imperfect computer models predict might someday harm polar bears.

**8) Name four things Alaska can and should do to reduce health care costs.** Though no expert in health care policy, I think the state can lower its health care costs by allowing more care to be delivered by nurse practitioners and other lower-cost providers; by requiring health insurance to require co-payments to encourage more responsible consumption of medical services; reforming tort laws to reduce the incentive for physicians to practice costly and unnecessary “defensive medicine,” and enacting common-sense workers compensation reforms to lower costs for workers and employers alike.

**9) Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? Why or why not?** I have serious concerns with the current judicial appointment system and the Alaska Judicial Council, whereby the attorneys’ professional association retains near-monopoly powers to determine the limited pool of attorneys from which the governor must select new judges. This system tends to encourage a self-perpetuating judiciary that shares political philosophies that do not necessarily reflect the principles held by the governor and the people to whom he or she must answer in general elections every four years, while judges face retention elections every six to 10 years.

**10) List any restrictions you personally will have (or have) on contributions to your campaign such as a dollar cap, accepting contributions from public-sector or private unions, PACs, etc.**

**Please provide details and justification.** I’ve been praised by the APOC executive director for my principled adherence to state financial laws and regulations, and I will continue to follow state campaign finance laws. I will not accept contributions from corporations, will observe the \$500 annual contribution cap, and will scrupulously follow reporting requirements. As it is not realistic to expect I’ll be in 1000-percent agreement with any one individual or group, it would not be appropriate to unilaterally and preemptively refuse legal contributions from any qualified donors wishing to support my candidacy.